The Dallas Morning News

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Saul Loeb/Agence France-Presse

Social media representatives (from left) Colin Stretch of Facebook, Sean Edgett of Twitter and Richard Salgado of Google frustrated senators who sought assurances about future elections.

RUSSIA PROBE | SOCIAL MEDIA

A struggle against meddling

Facebook, Google, Twitter promise to do better as senators take them to task

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Executives from Facebook, Google and Twitter appeared on Capitol Hill on Tuesday to publicly acknowledge their role in Russia's influence on the presidential campaign, but they offered little more than promises to do better.

Their reluctance frustrated lawmakers who sought stronger evidence that U.S. elections will be protected from foreign powers.

The hearing, the first of three in two days for company executives, served as an initial public reckoning for the internet giants. They had emphasized their role as public squares for political discourse but are being forced to confront how they were used as tools for a broad Russian misinformation campaign.

Both Democrats and some Republicans on a Senate Judiciary subcommittee complained that the companies had waited nearly a year to publicly admit how many Americans were exposed to the Russian effort to spread propaganda during the 2016 campaign. Senators pushed for stronger remedies, including regulations on their advertising practices

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AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Sign-up confusion reigning

As enrollment begins, Trump criticism, repeal efforts have many thinking plans gone

FROM WIRE REPORTS

David Branch knew that his job, helping people sign up for Obamacare, would be harder this year. But Branch didn't fully realize the scope of his challenge until a group that he approached with his fliers insisted that the Affordable Care Act had been repealed.

"They said, 'Why are you guys here? Obamacare is done,'" Branch recalled as he finished a training session in Macon, Ga.

In fact, the marketplaces continue to provide coverage for some 10 million people. And they remain the only option for many low- and moderate-income Americans who don't get health benefits through an employer or a government program such as Medicare or Medicaid.

But as the open enrollment period begins Wednesday, President Donald Trump's persistent criticism of the law and Republican congressional efforts to repeal it have fed widespread confusion among consumers.

"Most people think the plans are gone," said Katy Caldwell, executive

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NEW YORK

8 dead in truck attack

Driver plows down crowded bike path, is shot by police

Craig Ruttle/The Associated Press

Bicycles and debris are sprawled along a Manhattan bike path after Tuesday's truck attack that killed eight and injured 11. Five of the people killed were Argentine tourists in New York for a school reunion. Officials are calling it the city's worst terror attack since Sept. 11.

Don Emmert/Agence France-Presse

The attack unfolded as nearby schools were letting out on a crisp Halloween day, and it ended five blocks north of the World Trade Center.

Onslaught called 'act of terror'; suspect ID'd as Uzbekistan immigrant

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW YORK — A driver plowed a pickup down a crowded bike path along the Hudson River in Manhattan on Tuesday, killing eight people and injuring 11 before being shot by a police officer in what officials are calling the deadliest terrorist attack in New York City since Sept. 11.

The rampage ended when the motorist — whom the police identified as Sayfullo Saipov, 29 — smashed into a school bus, jumped out of his truck and ran up and down the highway waving a pellet gun and paintball gun and shouting "*Allahu Akbar*," Arabic for "God is great," before he was shot in the abdomen by the officer. He remained in critical condition on Tuesday evening.

Mayor Bill de Blasio declared the incident a terrorist attack, and federal law enforcement authorities were leading the investigation. Investigators discovered handwritten notes in Arabic near the truck that indicated allegiance to ISIS, two law enforcement officials said. But investigators had not uncovered evidence of any direct or enabling ties between Saipov and ISIS and were treating the episode as a case of an "inspired" attacker, two counterterrorism officials said.

"Based on information we have at this moment, this was an act of terror, and a particularly cowardly act of terror

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DALLAS COUNTY | JUVENILE DETENTION SEX SCANDAL

Lockup's head vows reform

She cites 1 firing, 1 demotion; more discipline is planned

By NAOMI MARTIN
Staff Writer
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Most or all of the supervisors overseeing one of Dallas County's juvenile lockups failed to carry out their responsibilities, leading to the sex scandal that came to light there this year, said the head of the county's juvenile services Tuesday.

TERRY SMITH

Terry Smith said she is taking steps to break up a lax and secretive culture that had set in among those charged with keeping kids safe. Those steps have included, so far, a firing and a demotion on Tuesday, Smith told *The Dallas Morning News* editorial board. She said she intends to hand

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TAX OVERHAUL

GOP vows to help the middle class — whoever that is

Term is hard to pin down, even for legislation's backers

By TOM BENNING
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GOP split could produce unlikely winner: Texas. **8A**

WASHINGTON — After years of helping folks at all income levels get their budgets in order, Dallas financial adviser Tom Murphy has developed a hard and fast rule for how your average taxpayer defines wealth.

"Rich people make twice as much as you make," he said, explaining how most people make the calculation in relation to their own standing.

That kind of perception — Who is rich? Who is middle class? Who is poor? — may rival any single statistic as GOP leaders prepare this week to unveil their much-anticipated legislation to overhaul the nation's tax code for the first time in three decades.

TOM MURPHY

The proposal will be full of rates, brackets and other essential metrics. It will also be wrapped in powerful rhetoric that can be vague to the point of meaningless.

Republicans, despite skepticism from Democrats, promise tax relief focused on the middle class. But it's unclear who fits that bill. President Donald Trump has made the probably unrealistic vow that he

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METRO & STATE

Hensarling won't seek re-election next year

U.S. Rep. Jeb Hensarling, a Dallas Republican, won't run for re-election next year, a decision that continues the reshaping of Republican politics in North Texas. **1B**

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Mostly sunny, milder

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